URBAN DISTRICT OF GRASMERE.

HEALTH COMMITTEE.

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health

FOR THE YEAR

1925.

1926.

"HERALD" PRINTING WORKS, AMBLESIDE.

URBAN DISTRICT OF GRASMERE.

MINISTRY OF HEA
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URBAN DISTRICT OF GRASMERE.

To the Chairman and Members of the

Urban District Council of Grasmere.

Sir and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present to you my Annual Report for the year 1925.

In accordance with instructions from the Ministry of Health this must be a Survey Report, and consequently more comprehensive than those presented to you during the previous four years, reviewing within the area—

(a) The measure of progress made in the improvement of the public health.

(b) The extent and character of the changes made in the public health services.

(c) Any further action of importance in the organisation or development of public health services which may be contemplated or considered desirable.

I much appreciate the courtesy with which you have received any advice tendered to you in the past, and also the careful consideration you have always given to any suggestions offered to you.

To your Sanitary Inspector I would express my thanks for all the help he has given to me freely at all times; without such, public health work could never prosper. I am grateful also to very many of my professional colleagues, who have given me much assistance, and upon whose co-operation I can always rely.

I have the honour to be,

Sir and Gentlemen,

Your obedient servant,

W. BARON COCKILL,

Medical Officer of Health,

Westmorland Combined Districts.

March 15th, 1926.

ANNUAL REPORT
OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
For the Year ended December, 1925.

Area (land and inland water)	7,333
Population (census 1921)	1,173
Population estimated 1925	879
Number of inhabited houses (census 1921)	188
Number of families or separate occupiers (census 1921) ...	191
Rateable Value	£10,504
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£39

Grasmere is one of the picture spots of England, lying at the head of Lake Grasmere, in a valley surrounded on all sides by lofty hills covered with moorland grass and affording a suitable pasturage for sheep grazing. The rock formation is upper Silurian, and the water supply thence derived is soft. The climate is mild, with a tendency to humidity.

It is a residential and holiday resort, and has no large industries.

Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

	Males.	Females.	Total.
Births (legitimate)	7 ...	2 ...	
,, (illegitimate)	— ...	1 ...	10
Birth Rate	11.37		
Deaths			11
Death Rate	12.51		

Number of women dying in, or in consequence of, childbirth :—

From Sepsis	Nil.
From other causes	Nil.

Deaths of infants under 1 year of age per 1,000 births :—

Legitimate, nil. Illegitimate, nil. Total, nil.

Deaths from Measles (all ages)	Nil.
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) ...	Nil.
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years) ...	Nil.

Poor Law Outdoor Relief has been administered to seven persons at a cost of £103.

There has been no unusual or excessive mortality during the year, nor has there been any special noteworthy cause of sickness or invalidity in the District.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES IN THE AREA.

Hospital.	Situation.	Accommodation
Tuberculosis	Meathop, Grange-over-Sands ...	150 beds
Maternity	Westmorland County Hospital ...	6 beds
Children	Nil. ...	—

Smallpox ...	... Woodside, near Kendal ...	50 beds
Fever	... The Sanatorium, Kendal ...	46 beds
Ethel Hedley Hospital School (Orthopædic) ...	Calgarth, Windermere ...	30 beds
Venereal Disease	... North Lonsdale Hospital, Barrow-in-Furness ...	—

The Westmorland County Hospital, Kendal, contains 50 beds, available for all Non-infectious, Medical, Surgical and abnormal Midwifery cases. A Maternity Ward was opened in 1924. It is supported by voluntary contributions.

Institutional Provision for Unmarried Mothers, etc. :—
St. Monica's Maternity Home, Kendal, under the control of the Carlisle Diocesan Maternity Committee.

Ambulance Facilities :—
(a) Infectious cases—Removed by the Kendal Ambulance.
(b) Non-infectious cases—St. John Ambulance Brigade Committee.

Clinics and Treatment Centres :—
Tuberculosis Dispensary at Kendal.
Travelling School, Dental Clinic.

Staff.

Name.	Qualification.	Office.	Whole or part time.	Other Offices.	Salaries contributed under P.H.A. or Exchequer Grants.
W. B. Cockill	M.D., etc. D.P.H.	M.O.H.	Part	M.O.H. Westmorland Combined Districts	Yes
A. F. Fildes	M.I.M.C.E.	Sanitary Inspector	Part	Surveyor	Yes

Professional Nursing in the Home :—
(a) General ... ... District Nursing Association.
(b) Infectious Diseases, e.g. Measles, etc. ... ,, ,, ,,

District Nursing Associations are voluntary organisations receiving grants in aid from the County Council.

Midwives :—No subsidy is paid to the one practising midwife in the District.

Chemical Work :—Is under the supervision of the County Council.

Legislation in Force :—	Adopted
Part III. Public Health Acts Amendment Act, 1890 ...	1891
Infectious Disease (Prevention) Act, 1890	1891
Bye-laws.	
Cemeteries	1899
Prevention of Nuisances	1901
Cleansing of Footways, Pavements, and Removal of Refuse	1901
Slaughterhouses	1901
New Streets and Buildings (revised)	1924
Regulations under Section 13, Dairies, Cowsheds, and Milk-shops Order, 1885	1907

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Water.—A few of the large houses on the outskirts of the district have their own supply, which is in all cases good. All the remaining portion have the Council's supply, which is derived from Tongue Ghyll, about two miles distant; this is of excellent quality and abundant in quantity, and a constant supply is maintained at all seasons of the year. In its character it is soft, not liable to pollution, and not plumbo-solvent. During the past year about three miles of Trunk and Distributing Mains have been cleaned and overhauled under the superintendence of the Surveyor.

Rivers and Streams.—No complaint with regard to pollution has been made.

Drainage and Sewerage.—This is entirely into cesspools, which are emptied monthly to half yearly as circumstances require, under the direction of the Council; six of these required certain repairs, which were carried out by the owners on request.

Closet Accommodation.—During the past five years there have been twenty-five conversions from the privy to water closets, five of these occurring during the last year; in all cases where possible the owner is urged to make the conversions. Closet accommodation :—

Water closets ...	271
Privies	121
Total ...	392

Scavenging.—This is undertaken by a local farmer under contract with the Council, and in most cases is efficiently carried out. All bins are emptied and disinfected weekly; ashpits and privies in most cases monthly, with a few exceptions of several outlying places, which are removed every three months.

The soil from the privies is deposited on the land, and all other material is removed to the Council's tip at Foulmire and covered with roadside dressings.

During the last year twelve bins have taken the place of ash-pits.

Sanitary Inspection of the Area.—Routine Inspection is made from time to time of the whole area, but fourteen special ones were made during the year in connection with the following:

Defective drains	3
Defective cesspools	6
Defective roofs and spouts ...	4
Midden and cowshed	1
Total	14

One statutory notice and three informal ones were issued in connection with the above; in all the other cases the necessary repairs were carried out on a request being made to the owner.

Smoke Abatement.—There has been no nuisance arising under this heading.

Premises and Occupations which can be Controlled by Bye-laws or Regulations.—With the exception of the slaughter-house and cowsheds and dairies, no other premises are under control.

Other Sanitary Conditions Requiring Notice.—During the past year the Council have provided sanitary conveniences for both sexes, which have been greatly appreciated, especially by visitors during the summer months; these conveniences have greatly relieved the other sanitary accommodation belonging to residents in the centre of the district.

Schools.—The water supply to the schools continues good. The sanitary accommodation is of the pail type; these are emptied and disinfected weekly under the superintendence of the Sanitary Inspector; a great improvement could be made by the conversion of these into water closets.

No necessity for exclusion of scholars has arisen.

HOUSING.

I. The general housing conditions are good and there is no shortage; no important change in the population is anticipated in the near future. During the year four new houses have been erected in the district, two of these being for the working classes. During the past five years no less than twelve houses of the most approved type have been erected by private enterprise for the working classes; there is also every prospect of another four being erected during the coming year of the same type.

II. There is no overcrowding.

III. The houses are in good condition and any minor defects have been made good by the owners.

IV. There are no unhealthy areas.

V. There is no need for new Byelaws or revision of existing Byelaws.

HOUSING STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1925.

Number of new houses erected during the year :—	
(a) Total	4
(b) With State assistance under the Housing Acts, 1919 or 1923	Nil.
1.—Unfit Dwelling-houses :—	
Inspection.—(1) Total number of Dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	10
(2) Number of Dwelling-houses which were inspected and recorded under the Housing (Inspection of District) Reg. 1910	2
(3) Number of Dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	Nil.
(4) Number of Dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-heading) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	Nil.
2.—Remedy of Defects without service of formal Notices :—	
Number of Dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	10
3.—Action under Statutory Powers	Nil.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

Milk.—The milk produced or brought into the area is wholesome, and the supply and distribution are sufficient and adequate. The Dairies and Cowsheds are regularly inspected. No action has been necessary with regard to tuberculous milk or cattle. No licences for graded milk have been issued. There are eight registered retailers.

Meat.—Regular inspection of the slaughterhouse and butchers' shops is made. There is only one private licensed slaughterhouse, and this existed in 1920. It is efficiently maintained.

Other Foods.—The sanitary conditions of bake-houses and other premises where food is manufactured, prepared, stored or exposed for sale are good.

PREVALENCE OF, AND CONTROL OVER, INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Only six cases of Scarlet Fever have occurred since 1920, and two of these were imported cases; there were no "Return" cases.

Diphtheria Anti-toxin is always available and is issued free of charge.

The Notifications of Diseases under Regulations of 7th January, 1919, have not been of any material value.

The Combined Districts of Westmorland have provided laboratories at Kendal, to which any practitioner may send specimens for examination. Sputum is also examined at Meathop Sanatorium. Five specimens have been examined in 1925, all for Diphtheria. No use has been made of the Schick or Dick tests. No vaccinations have been made by the Medical Officer of Health. Very complete liaison between the School Medical Authority and the Medical Officer of Health is maintained. The mortality from Influenza is 1.3 per 1,000 of population.

Disinfection with formalin is carried out after all infectious cases, and bedding, clothing, etc., is disinfected in the steam disinfector at Windermere Isolation Hospital.

No special provision is made for disinfestation, but it can always be arranged in co-ordination with Kendal Isolation Hospital.

Notifiable Diseases.—One female, aged 30, who contracted Diphtheria outside the area, was admitted to Hospital and recovered, and one male, aged 41, not admitted to Hospital, died from Pneumonia.

Tuberculosis.—Only one case of Pulmonary Tuberculosis was notified, a male, aged 55, and he was admitted to Sanatorium. No deaths occurred from Tuberculosis which had not previously been notified. It has not been necessary to take any action under Section 3, P. H. (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, nor under Section 62, P. H. Act, 1925.

The administration of Tuberculosis, Venereal Disease, and Maternity and Child Welfare are under the supervision of the County Council.

No cases of Ophthalmia Neonatorium, Puerperal Fever, or Poliomyelitis have been notified.

FACTORIES AND WORKSHOPS.

Six inspections of Factories and six of Workshops have been made. No notices were required to be issued.